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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Resilient New Haven: Continuously Improving Its Preparedness for Adverse Weather and Climate Impact

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – While the City is continuing to address the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to prepare for other events that may occur during this time. In the past few years, the City of New Haven has experienced several flooding events. Both heavy rainstorms and coastal storms have caused flooding throughout the City, occasionally resulting in impassable roads and property damage. The City is continuously preparing for natural disasters—specifically floods, hurricanes, and other storm events – and works to foster community resilience through various educational and public information efforts as outlined below. To sign up for the City’s emergency notifications system, please [visit this webpage](#).

City officials are steadily upgrading infrastructure and policies to mitigate the impact of these flooding events: specifically, through the installation of bioswales, the repair of storm drain outfalls and tide flaps, catch basin cleaning and the construction of seawalls – and they work to foster community resilience through educational and public information efforts as outlined below.

The City would like to ensure residents know the resources available to prepare for potential storms and flooding. Several online resources can be accessed by anyone at any time. First, if you are concerned about flooding on your property, you can look up your flood risk and review maps using [the FEMA Map Service portal](#). If you are interested in reviewing sea level rise and how it might impact your property, the UConn Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) has developed an [online viewer for various sea-level rise scenarios](#). The City has also developed an online Flood Risk Guide, an informational tool that realtors and contractors who work in the City can understand their roles and obligations regarding at-risk properties. This Guide can be [visited here](#).

There are also opportunities to review flood risk in person; however, it is important to note that public viewing will be available once COVID-19 guidelines allow access. New Haven City Plan maintains a collection of flood maps that residents can view at City Hall (165 Church Street), showing flood zones, flood depths, and other flood information. Residents can also look up their flood risk by reviewing maps at the New Haven Free Public Library (133 Elm Street).

The New Haven Office of Emergency Management webpage includes useful “Hurricane Tips” that residents can use to prepare for severe weather. This informational brochure, along with other resources, can be found on the [Emergency Management website](#). Residents are also encouraged to sign up for New Haven Alerts, which can also be done through the Emergency Management website. This system sends out information through emails, texts, and/or phone calls during a hurricane and other emergency events like flooding.

Due to its many educational tools aimed at notifying people of their flood risk, the City of New Haven Maintains a Class 7 rating under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). This rating provides up to a 15% discount to most NFIP policies for properties in special flood hazard areas (SFHAs). If you are a renter, it is important to point out that you, too, have options for flood protection. There are several actions you can take to protect your personal property, including, but not limited to, elevating or storing items in waterproof containers to minimize flood water damage or relocate your vehicle if a flood event is predicted. A renter can also purchase a flood insurance policy to protect their belongings. Renters located within or outside of a flood zone have various policy options and should contact an insurance agent or [visit here](#).

The City will continue to inform residents and take seriously the threat that floods pose. For more flooding information, [visit here](#). Please contact the City Plan Department at (203) 946-6377 for more information.

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